

Remarks of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic
of Zambia on the occasion of the courtesy call of JICA Volunteers to the
President of the Republic of Zambia on 5 April 2019

Your Excellency Mr. Edgar Chgwa Lungu, President of the Republic of
Zambia,
The Hon. Freedom Sikazwe, MP, Minister in the Office of the President,
Ambassador Chalwe Lombe, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign
Affairs,
Mr. Amos Chanda, Special Assistant to H.E. the President,
Senior Government Officials,
JICA Officials,
JICA Volunteers,
Representatives from the Media,
Distinguished Guests,

It is my honour and pleasure to say a few words at this very important
occasion.

Your Excellency,

We are very grateful to Your Excellency for this occasion for JICA volunteers
to pay a courtesy call to Your Excellency.

I am confident that the volunteers here are very much pleased with this
occasion and now much more encouraged to continue their work vigorously.

Your Excellency,

On the occasion of the visit of Your Excellency to Japan in December last
year, Your Excellency and my Prime Minister confirmed that the relations
between our two countries would enter a new phase of cooperation.

On the first day of next month (i.e. May 1), the current Crown Prince will
accede to the Emperor in Japan.

Last Monday the name of the new era with the new Emperor was decided by
the Government of Japan and was announced.

The name of the new era is “Rei Wa”, meaning “beautiful harmony”.

Your Excellency,

I believe that in the new phase of cooperation between our two countries in the new era of Japan, the JICA volunteers will continue to play an important role, among other cooperation between our two countries.

Thus I would like to express my sincere gratitude, once again, to Your Excellency for this occasion.

Thank you.